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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary



FEMA

September 14, 2016

Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Tom Wheeler:

I am writing to request your participation on the newly established Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Subcommittee to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Advisory Council (NAC). The subcommittee's creation is pursuant to the IPAWS Modernization Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-143), which was signed into law on April 11, 2016. You may also choose to select a designee from the Federal Communications Commission to serve on your behalf. FEMA will soon host the inaugural meeting to begin the NAC IPAWS Subcommittee's activities.

Public Law 114-143 amends Title V of the Homeland Security Act of 2002. Among its mandates is a requirement to establish an IPAWS Subcommittee that will make recommendations, through the NAC, to ensure that FEMA can provide timely and effective warnings regarding natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters or threats to public safety. The IPAWS Subcommittee is to include:

- Deputy Administrator for Protection and National Preparedness, FEMA<sup>1</sup>;
- Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission;
- Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce;
- Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, U.S. Department of Commerce;
- Under Secretary for Science and Technology, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS);
- Under Secretary for the National Protection and Programs Directorate, DHS;
- Director of Disability Integration and Coordination, FEMA;
- Chairperson of the National Council on Disability; and
- Additional FEMA-appointed members from other federal agencies and state and local governments, as well as experts from private stakeholder groups.

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<sup>1</sup> This role also serves as the Chair of the Subcommittee.

The IPAWS Subcommittee will convene to consult with and consider changes to improve the IPAWS and new and developing technologies that may be beneficial to the public alert and warning system. Subcommittee members should possess the requisite technical knowledge and expertise required to serve. If you elect to send a designee in your place, the designee should be qualified to represent your organization on issues that come before the IPAWS Subcommittee. It is anticipated that meetings will be held in the Washington, DC area. Appointed membership terms shall be no longer than three years.

Please address your response to this letter to the Chair of the NAC IPAWS Subcommittee, Tim Manning via National Continuity Programs. Questions about the subcommittee may be directed to Antwane Johnson, IPAWS Program Manager, National Continuity Programs, at (202) 646-4383 or [Antwane.Johnson@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Antwane.Johnson@fema.dhs.gov).

We look forward to hearing from you on this matter by September 29, 2016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. Craig Fugate', written in a cursive style.

W. Craig Fugate  
Administrator